



Sixty-second Legislature

## LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF IDAHO



First Regular Session - 2013

## IN THE SENATE

## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 129

## BY JUDICIARY AND RULES COMMITTEE

## A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

STATING FINDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE AND PROVIDING FOR THE AMENDMENT OF JOINT  
RULE 18 OF THE JOINT RULES OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTA-  
TIVES OF THE STATE OF IDAHO RELATING TO STATEMENTS OF PURPOSE AND FISCAL  
NOTES.

Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

WHEREAS, the Senate and the House of Representatives deem it necessary  
and desirable to amend Joint Rule 18 of the Joint Rules of the Senate and the  
House of Representatives.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the First Regular Ses-  
sion of the Sixty-second Idaho Legislature, the Senate and the House of Rep-  
resentatives concurring therein, that Joint Rule 18 of the Senate and the  
House of Representatives shall be amended to read as follows:

## JOINT RULE 18

Statement of Purpose and Fiscal Notes. -- No bill shall be introduced  
in either house unless it shall have attached thereto a concise statement of  
purpose and fiscal note. The contact person for the statement of purpose and  
fiscal note shall be identified on the document. A statement of purpose or  
fiscal note is not a statement of legislative intent nor intended for any use  
outside of the legislative process. The statement of purpose and fiscal note  
applies only to a bill as introduced, and does not necessarily reflect any  
amendment to the bill that may be adopted. No bill making an appropriation,  
increasing or decreasing existing appropriations, or requiring a future ap-  
propriation, or increasing or decreasing revenues of the state or any unit  
of local government, or requiring a significant expenditure of funds by the  
state or a unit of local government, shall be introduced unless it shall have  
attached thereto a fiscal note. This note shall contain an estimate of the  
amount of such appropriation, expenditure, or change under the bill. The  
fiscal note shall identify a full fiscal year's impact of the legislation.  
Statements of purpose and fiscal notes may be combined in the same statement.  
All statements of purpose and fiscal notes shall be reviewed for compliance  
with this rule by the committee to which the bill is assigned. A member may  
challenge the sufficiency of a statement of purpose or fiscal note at any  
time prior to passage, except upon introduction. Nothing in this rule shall  
prohibit a statement of purpose or fiscal note from being revised.

## **STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

### **RS22311**

This Concurrent Resolution would amend Joint Rule 18 to add language clarifying that a statement of purpose or fiscal note is not a statement of legislative intent. The SOP and Fiscal note are helpful as an internal document only in the legislative process, but since the sponsor of the legislation writes the SOP and Fiscal Note there can be an inherent bias in that process which can undermine the accuracy of those statements of purpose. The only true expression of legislative intent is in the literal language of the bill itself.

### **FISCAL NOTE**

There is no fiscal impact associated with this legislation.

#### **Contact:**

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